

# MINUTES

Of the Initial General Meeting of the Valverde Bowls Club, held at the Restaurant Don Camillo on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

Steering Committee Present:

Gordon Linford (chair)  
Jeff Perry  
Jan McGlynn (secretary)  
Gui Gomes  
Margaret Linford  
Barry Adams

Apologies: Lawrence Boni, Henry Parlour

The meeting commenced at 10.20 a.m., as per the attached Agenda.

1. Gordon Linford opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and said that without the financial support of Henry and Fran Parlour the creation of this bowling club would not have been possible. He asked members of the Steering Committee to give their reports on what has been achieved so far.

2. Jeff Perry gave a brief summary of the finances. He said that as of now 25 people have taken up Founder Membership, contributing €74.000. This includes €20.000 each from Henry & Fran Parlour, entitling them to free life membership. Henry has also generously provided an extra €15.000 initial loan to the club, to be repaid later. The total income now thus €89.000. Outgoings: construction of the green, fencing and gates, paving and gravel (yet to be done), legal fees and club equipment, refurbishment of the storeroom, amount to a total of €100.000, of which we have paid out €52.000 so far. Expected total expenditure is about €10.000 more than current income, and this is slightly disappointing, but not a major problem as no account has been taken of membership fees from bowlers once the club opens in September, and some additional Founder Membership contributions may still be forthcoming. Jeff said that after this meeting the Committee would further discuss this. Asked if there were any questions. No questions.

3. Gui Gomes reported on the green construction. Said the grass was laid according to official specifications and this had been done 90% correctly. There are no problems with the green itself but there are a few finishing touches still to be achieved. The fencing is of poor workmanship and rain has caused some problems around the green. There are some issues still to be addressed by the Contractors. He said he hoped we should be able to bowl from May, but only for club members. We are entering into the summer league, but will not be hosting clubs on our green, as the grass is still very tender.

Terry Kerr: said he had noticed small stones in the ditch. Gui said they were riverstones which would prove more suitable than gravel. He agreed cork is cheap but if it rains it tends to hold water and the area flood. Rubber is too expensive here.

Gui Gomes: If we chose to concrete around the green it would be necessary to check with the council, as permission might be needed, the alternative was paving/gravel. Gui added that plastic grating type material has been used at the new Cabanas green, and this has grass on top,

and looks good. This is also used in car parks and on the golf course. We should investigate the cost of this.

3. Jan McGlynn gave her report on Sponsorship and Publicity: She said she had obtained sponsorship for 1,000 score cards in the first instance from David Hills Insurance in Almancil. It could be that at a later date this company would sponsorship a tournament/competition. She had met with a supplier to Jorge, Don Camillo restaurant, David Jones who is also interested in promoting his company and sponsoring an event at the Club. As he is frequently driving to Portugal, he could be approached if we need any equipment/clothing bringing in.

Gareth Bullock, whose business is the Bowen Technique, will also sponsor an event, and use our venue for promoting his business. He hopes to offer some explanation, brochures, and small treatments during this day. He will provide the trophy and prizes for this event, and treatment vouchers.

Jan said she had met with Ron of Jack High Bowling Tours, who has visited our green and has already booked our green for 3 tours at the beginning of October. He also wants to rent our green, for a private Jack High Function with a banquet type dinner on the last day, in the Restaurant. Jan said she had discussed with Jorge about the provision of snack type lunches for the visitors in October, and these will be provided.

We have been accepted by Bowls Algarve, and Connie Borrell, Chairlady, has asked if we would consider hosting the Poppy Day Event in November. We have told Connie we will do this, and confirmation is awaited from Bowls Algarve. Connie has asked if we could host some of her own groups in 2010, and we will do this. We will have a visit from Personal Touch (the other major bowls tour company), at the end of April and hopefully we will receive some tour groups from them in the Autumn/New Year. As members of Bowls Algarve each bowler will receive a membership card, which must be shown when playing at other greens, especially in the League Games. We expect to be entering teams in the winter leagues.

Jan said she had established a good relationship with the two English language newspapers and we can use their good services to promote bowls information. She had also contacted Kiss FM radio, and they had offered to publicise any of our competitions, given good notice.

At the moment Albufeira Bowling Club are giving AFPOP use of their green for once a month bowling and tuition. Jan thought we should investigate the possibility of doing the same, once our green is established. This will bring us in extra income. Tom Sanderson (originator of the Albufeira initiative) will discuss this with Jeff Perry, an AFPOP member at Loule.

In finishing Jan pointed out to those present, the nearly completed pergola area around the restaurant, which Jorge has offered to the Club for their social events/touring team meals. We hope to use this to offer our members social get together evenings throughout the year.

4. Jeff addressed the review and approval of Club Rules: Said the Notarised Constitution and the Rules are available on the club website, but did hand out printed copies at the meeting. He added that the Constitution had been Notarised as per Portuguese law, and we should avoid any changes to it – as these can only be approved at an AGM. The Rules however, can be amended by approval at a Club Committee Meeting. Jeff asked if there were any comments. He asked the meeting to approve the Constitution.

Terry Kerr: asked if this could be done at the end of this meeting, to give those present chance to read the documents to hand.

6. Jeff Perry: Jeff detailed the proposed fees and asked for approval of the fee structure, as presented to those present, for the coming season 09/10, September through to August. One comment has been received this morning from Raymond Foster who said the original projection of club fees differed from those presented today, in that on the original paperwork it was stated husband and spouse would receive 25% discount on the 6 month membership. Said he had bowling friends, who would be interested in joining, if this was the case.

John Currell: asked about spouse membership, i.e. €700 for a couple.

Maggie Williams: asked about the age range for junior membership – this is up to 16 years.

**It was proposed by Raymond Foster and seconded by Jeff Perry that the 25% discount for a spouse applies to all categories of membership. Agreed by unanimous vote, no objections.**

Terry Kerr: asked if this applies to Founder Members – this is the case.

7. Election of Club Officers: Gavin Alderman made a **proposal that the existing Steering Committee be elected en block in their existing positions, with the condition that this is for two years and that 50% of these persons are re-elected after one year, so that there is some consistency in the Committee. The Club Rules to be amended accordingly.**

Jeff Perry thanked Gavin for the confidence he had shown in the present Committee and said that Lawrence Boni (not present) had also indicated this proposal. Said he would however like to give anyone present the opportunity of putting themselves forward for election. No proposals from the floor.

Jeff Perry: detailed the positions needed, and Gui Gomes explained that under Portuguese Law the formation of the different Committees was needed. **It was proposed:**

President of the Table (AGM): Henry Parlour  
Vice President of the Table (AGM): Fran Parlour  
Secretary of the Table (AGM): Sue Jepson

Management Committee Chairman: Gordon Linford  
Management Committee Secretary : Jan McGlynn  
Management Committee Treasurer: Jeff Perry  
Club Captain: Gui Gomes  
Vice Captain: Tom Sanderson

Fiscal Committee: Chairman: Terry Kerr:  
Fiscal Committee: Secretary: Lawrence Boni  
Third Fiscal Committee member: Barry Adams

**A vote was taken on this proposal. Agreed Unanimously. No objections**

8. Club Roll Up days: It had been suggested that these be Tuesday, Friday and Sunday mornings. Carol Barnes suggested we bowl one afternoon. It was suggested therefore we have Tuesday mornings, Friday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

**A proposal was made that club roll up days be Tuesday mornings at 10.30 a.m. Friday mornings at 10.30 a.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. Agreed unanimously with no objections.**

9. (a) Club shirts: Margaret and Gordon Linford have sourced and obtained these at a cost of €16 euros for a polo shirt with club logo – names can be added at an extra cost of approximately €5-€6. Terry Kerr asked about sweatshirts. These have been costed at 18euros each, in a plum colour and can be ordered through Gordon and Margaret.

(b) Summer League: We shall be entering a team, starting in May, games to be played on Thursdays. Jeff asked if there were any bowlers present, who would like to be considered for selection, to put their names forward.

(c) Isla Canela bowls Club have asked if we would enter a team for a Home and Away match. It was thought however at this stage, we should not host a team on our green until the autumn. We could however put a team forward for the away game, in May/June.

(d) Founder Member Registration: Jeff has printed out forms with members' names and asked those concerned to complete and return these for club records.

(e) Membership Application Forms: Jeff asked those present, if they were interested, to take a form for completion. This form is also available to download on the Club's website.

(f) Storeroom refurbishment: Barry Adams said this room is in the process of being refurbished to enable club equipment to be stored and for the gents' and ladies' changing rooms. He asked if there was anyone present, who felt they would like to assist in this task, to let him know. Tom Sanderson said he would be prepared to help, as he had all the necessary tools. Gui Gomes has purchased shelves and will be setting these up, and a further delivery of material is expected on Wednesday next.

10. Returning to the approval of the Club Rules, **Jeff proposed that the Club Constitution and the Rules as distributed, but with the two amendments discussed (about Spouse memberships and re-election of club officers), be approved. Agreed unanimously with no objections.**

11. Any other business: Margaret Alderman asked about membership cards and if these will be issued in different colours to indicate the type of membership. Raymond Foster felt that if membership fees had been paid, then a uniform card should be sufficient. The Committee agreed to discuss this matter later.

Terry Kerr: asked about the legal agreement with Jorge the restaurant owner. Jeff Perry said the completion of this document was a long story and said that anyone who had dealt with Portuguese bureaucracy would appreciate that things are never simple. He has had constant consultations with our lawyer, who has requested additional information. There is absolutely no problem with Jorge whatsoever. It has now transpired that we needed to wait until today's meeting, until the officers of the club had been elected, so that they could sign the necessary documents. Things should now be able to proceed without delay. Jeff added that the Club has been able to open a bank account in their name without any problem.

Gordon Linford said he would like to offer a vote of thanks to Jeff for the amount of work he has put into this matter and the time involved in trying to sort out the necessary issues. Gordon also

expressed a vote of thanks to Jorge for his co-operation throughout, and particularly for allowing the club to hold this meeting today.

Terry Kerr proposed a vote of thanks to the Steering Committee for their hard work and endeavours in setting up the club and their presentation at this meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.30 am.

Date of next AGM: Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30 a.m.

Signed: ..... Gordon Linford (Chairman)

Date: .....